

RED CROSS WORK



TUBERCULOSIS CAMPS IN NEW YORK STATE

ON June 29 the first tuberculosis day camp of the American National Red Cross was opened in Schenectady under the auspices of the Schenectady County Subdivision of the New York State Branch of the Red Cross. It is the first of five Red Cross day camps established, or to be established, this summer in America.

A Red Cross day camp will be opened in Albany within a short time and another in New York City on October first. Other Red Cross day camps are located in Washington, D. C., and Wilmington, Del.

The Schenectady Red Cross day camp is located in a pine grove on high flats in the southeastern part of the city. It has two permanent wooden buildings—an office and a kitchen—and on platforms a large dining tent, two hospital tents—one each for men and women—and two conical tents for night campers. A medical visiting committee, whose members visit the camp in turn for an hour or two a day, are Drs. C. F. Clowe, H. L. Towne, Peter McPartlon and J. H. Collins. The camp is in charge of a superintendent, Miss Sarah B. Palmer, R.N., who was in charge of the floating hospital in New York City for three years. The nurse is Miss Rose Hofmeister, R.N., formerly of Utica; a temporary nurse has served nights part of the time; the camp has also a cook to prepare the noon meal and the milk, eggs, etc., served at other hours of the day. The camp opened with six patients and now has fifteen, the probable limit this year. The camp will be open until November first and perhaps longer. The design was to take only incipient and moderately advanced cases, but it has been difficult to draw the line in the undertaking, and the camp has four fairly advanced cases—one of which is confined to bed. Several patients sleep at the camp. The camp has received its patients from the municipal dispensary. Home supervision will be given by local organized charities.

The Albany Red Cross day camp, which it is expected will open soon under the supervision of the Albany Subdivision, will be located on Kenwood Heights on land generously furnished by the Albany Hospital for Incurables.

The camp arrangements are in charge of the day camp committee, of which the medical members are Drs. Howard Van Rensselaer, Henry

Hun and Charles K. Winne. The nurse will be Miss Nellie Coligan. The superintendent's name cannot be given at present. Probably the services of another nurse will be necessary. There will be a cook. The camp's limit this first year for the day camp alone will be about fifteen patients. Incipient and moderately advanced cases only will be handled in the camp.

The Red Cross day camp committee is, for purposes of coöperation, a subcommittee of the local tuberculosis committee of the State Charities Aid Association.

The New York City Red Cross day camp is to be conducted by the New York County Subdivision of the Red Cross and will be located on the roof of the Vanderbilt Clinic, a dispensary department of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is the medical department of Columbia University, and is at the corner of Sixtieth Street and Amsterdam Avenue. The Clinic will fit up the roof at an expense of \$10,000 and will supply medical supervision to the camp. The New York County Red Cross will supply nurses, attendants and nourishment to the forty or more patients to be received.

Inasmuch as the Clinic is a member of the Association of Tuberculosis Clinics of the city, the Red Cross will thus be brought into the organization.

The camp will open October first and will continue during the day all the year around. After the first few months, it is probable that the camp will be open day and night. The superintendent of the camp will be Mr. Charles B. Grimshaw, superintendent of the Clinic, and supervision will be given by members of the regular staff of the Clinic. The capacity of the camp will be at least forty and probably more patients. Incipient and moderately advanced cases will be received and when the camp is running the twenty-four hours of the day, probably more advanced cases can be handled.

In establishing these camps the American Red Cross joins hands not only with the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, the State Charities Aid Association and other organizations already engaged in the field, but with the other members of the International Red Cross, the German and Russian Red Cross, which have been engaged for ten or twelve years in tuberculosis work. The day camp idea is really a contribution of the German Red Cross, and it is therefore peculiarly appropriate in its being made the chief phase of the American Red Cross's work. It was adopted only after investigation and consultation with the leading experts and after recommendation to the

Red Cross by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The day camp is of approved value in this country as well as abroad. The first day camp in this country was opened in Boston some three years ago and has given such a good account of itself that it has been taken over by the new Consumptive's Hospital located in Mattapan. Other camps have also been conducted in Boston, Salem, Mass., Washington, D. C., and in New York City on the disused ferry-boat *Southfield* conducted last year by the Charity Organization Society and this year by Bellevue Hospital. The camp has in fact come to be recognized as an indispensable part of every progressive plan for the relief and control of tuberculosis and therefore offers a wide field for useful work on the part of an organization so large and influential as the Red Cross, while at the same time its relative inexpensiveness and simplicity of conduct will not require the raising of large sums or the maintenance of a large force of workers, thus diverting the energies of the Red Cross from its first, if not more important obligation of assisting the medical department of the army in time of war, and of serving as the official emergency relief organization of the people in time of great national calamity.

The Red Cross—national and local—has practically no funds with which to carry on this work, since it retains for its own use no part of the millions of dollars which pass through its hands and which are given for the specific purpose of mitigating suffering in given localities, as San Francisco, China, Japan, etc., and since its membership dues are merely nominal—one dollar per annum—and hardly meet the expense of organization. The relatively small emergency fund at national headquarters is available only for war and disaster, and the endowment fund only for national calamities of the greatest magnitude. Tuberculosis indeed is a calamity, second to none other, but the terms of the national charter do not permit the deflection of the funds to this use, nor, moreover, would it generally be deemed wise. The Red Cross is therefore appealing for voluntary contributions, and is confident that these contributions will be received in amounts sufficient to conduct a large number of day camps similar to the ones already instituted.

